

jgalliart@tribune.com

For final day vacationers

Frasca Pizzeria and Wine Bar, 3358 N. Paulina St. 773-248-5222

Do you have one last day of rest before returning to work? Treat yourself to brunch. Choose from items off the Lakeview restaurant's holiday menu, including panini, wood-fired pizzas, \$7 bloody marys and \$14 bottomless mimosas. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Prices vary.

For grown-up children at heart

The Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave. 312-409-1954

If you're still on out-of-town-hosting duty, fill your evening with the family-friendly "That's Weird, Grandma," a weekly, hour-long program of skits and songs written by Chicago Public School students with help from the always-entertaining Neo-Futurists. This week's show is holiday-themed. 8 p.m. \$10.

For those in need of a workout

Rink at Wrigley, 1100 W. Addison St. 312-617-7017

Shave off those extra calories and strap on a pair of skates at the icy confines next to Wrigley Field, where admission and skate rental are half-price today. 2-9 p.m. \$5.

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WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

Feeling a little surly today? You're not alone. We asked readers to let us know who and what is bugging them, and here's what we heard. Air your gripes and join all of RedEye's online conversations at facebook.com/theredeve.

> empt from picking up your dog's poop! - ANDREA BELARD City of Chicago: If you're not going to plow the snow routes, take down the no parking signs!

Hey dog owners, the fact that there's snow piled up does not mean you are ex-

Hey, left lane drivers! Why must you splash the pedestrians by driving so close to the sidewalk when it rains? Are you seriously blind or you just do it for the fun of it? - FRANCES

> Hey, big guy ... just cuz l am smaller than you does not mean you can squish me on the bus every morning-especially when you have an empty seat on the other sideplease lean the other way!



The sun shines as we get back to work. Sigh.



Brrrreezy and spots 'o' sun.



Wind,

No coat

on New

Year's

28

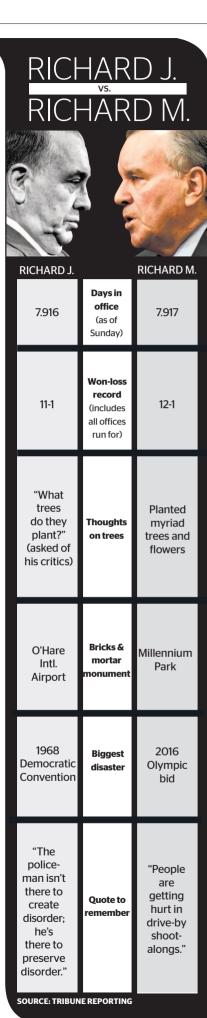


39

fog and (for us).









Chicago Tribune

On Sunday, Richard M. Daley surpassed his father's record of 7,916 days in office, becoming the city's longest-serving mayor. Not many remember enough to compare the two.

Jack Schaller, proprietor of Schaller's Pump in Bridgeport, does.

"Richie, he doesn't come around like his father did," said Schaller, 86, using the diminutive by which many Chicagoans differentiate the Daleys.

Worse, Richie Daley forsook Bridgeport's bungalows for a glitzy Near South Side address, a defection Schaller ascribes to the mayor's wife, Maggie, being from the "East." As Schaller pronounces the word, it's not so much a compass point as a reference to the strange world beyond Wentworth Avenue.

Others, of course, find breadth of vision to be one of the second Mayor Daley's strengths.

"He travels all over, bringing the best of what he finds back to Chicago," said Larry Bennett, a DePaul University political scientist.

Indeed, it's hard to imagine Richard J. Daley traveling to Paris and importing ideas like bike-sharing and fancy transit stations to Chicago. Yet it was the parochial first Mayor Daley who was a kingmaker of national Democratic politics.

When John F. Kennedy considered running for president, his father, Joe, first sought Daley's blessing. Robert Kennedy similarly bore witness to Daley's power during his brief presidential campaign: "Daley is the ball game," he told reporters.

Boosters and critics agree that the Daleys have one thing in common.

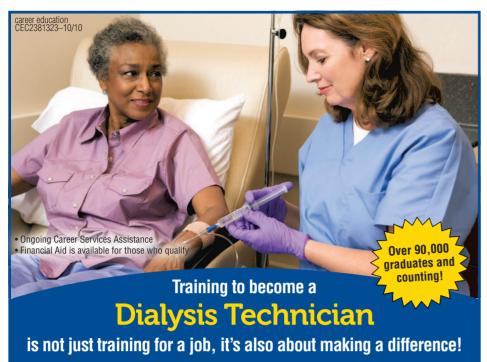
"They were most similar in their love for the city," said James Grossman, executive director of the American Historical Association and a scholar of Chicago. "They wanted nothing other than to be mayor of Chicago."

While he considers neither Daley to be personally dishonest, Grossman said both were unwilling to recognize corruption around them.

During the first Daley's administration, reformers filed a lawsuit against patronage — long the foundation of Chicago politics — that eventually forced the city to accept federal monitoring of its hiring procedures.

The second Daley's administration was scarred by the Hired Truck scandal, a federal investigation that uncovered bribery, ghost companies and bogus invoices.

Yet no matter how many cronies of either Daley went to prison, neither ever had much of a problem getting re-elected, amassing so much power that opposition seemed almost futile.



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Trending topics for next year

OF THE WEEK

with Photoshop

preinstalled.

Mirrors should come

@VesselDoc

A lot has happened in the social media space this year. There were 25 billion tweets sent. We rode the Google Wave. We fought for mayorships on Foursquare. We tended to the animals in Farmville.

And like the old song goes, we've only just begun. The way we use social media

and interact with friends, family and companies is going to change in 2011, and here are just a few things you can expect.

Badges are nice, but ...

Advertisers are likely to further embrace the power of location-based apps such as SCVNGR, Gowalla and Foursquare, and they'll be looking for new and more creative ways to get you to buy what they are selling. Free stuff and discounts are available right now, and the trend is only going to grow.

Facebook is ready to pounce

Expect Facebook to play a much greater role in everything that's location-based. Look at Facebook Deals, which integrates with Facebook Places. Remember what happened when Deals launched and Chipotle and Gap jumped on board right away? The talk on Twitter and Facebook about free jeans and the line out the door at my neighborhood Chipotle were great indicators. Buy-one-get-one burritos and free denim are just the opening acts.

More! More! More!

More Apple. More Android. More iPads. More hardware means more social media and more people. Now more than ever, companies know they have to be in your pocket, on your phones—and getting you to open your wallet and your mind. I'm afraid this might also be bad news for those of you who have so far dodged the parent bullet—more means more everything, including curious family members.

Always open

Have you noticed more Facebook and Twitter updates at odd times of the day? I used to go to bed at midnight and wake up to just a few missed status updates. Now, I'm seeing a lot more. More devices plus more adoption equals more social media in more places. Math isn't my strong suit, but the equation Md+Ma=Msm∞ seems to fit the bill.

I look forward to seeing how many of these I got right when I'm writing about 2012. Of course, in the social media space, nothing is ever set in stone. That's what makes it so exciting.

What about you? What are you most looking forward to in social media in 2011? Tweet me, poke me—just tell me. Go ahead. Be social. I don't bite.



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EYESWIDE

WITH WINTER TIGHTENING ITS GRIP, GETTING UP IN THE MORNING CAN MAKE YOU FEEL SLEEP-DEPRIVED

By Leonor Vivanco

REDEYE

Terrance Lee barely sees daylight.

During his surgery rotation, the third year Chicago med student would wake up at 4:30 a.m. before the sun rose and stay at the hospital until long after it went down. But his day didn't end there. He had to study before going to bed at 10:30 p.m.—and wake up six hours later to do it all over again.

"It's depressing sometimes to wake up and it's still dark, and when you're leaving the hospital it's dark again," said Lee, 24, who lives in Streeterville. "Often times, you don't really get to see sunlight at all—maybe if you peer at it through the patients' windows."

Lee is now a master at functioning on about six hours of sleep, two hours less than the recommended amount but just enough for him to stay on his game at the hospital.

Count him among the bleary-eyed masses. Common wisdom tells us the average adult should get about eight hours of sleep a night, but in the hustle of daily life, shuteye can be the first thing to go. Chicagoans entering hibernation mode this winter might feel even more like they're not getting enough sleep as those long winter nights make it harder and harder to get up in the morning. According to experts, sleep deprivation can affect a person's immune system, hurting the ability to fight off infections. Lack of sleep also can increase the risk of accidents because of impaired coordination or inattention.

"The shorter daylight hours [in the winter] for many people will make it harder to wake up in the morning because we're used to getting that strong cue from bright lights and sunlight in our bedroom to help ease the transition of waking up," said James Wyatt, director of the Sleep Disorders Service and Research Center at Rush University Medical Center.

Lots of Americans aren't getting a good night's sleep. As many as 70 million in the U.S. may be affected by chronic sleep loss or sleep disorders, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Though there's no easy solution for sleep deprivation, napping can help.

The so-called power nap, which lasts 15 to 20 minutes, can provide a restorative benefit of up to three hours, Wyatt said. And longer naps, like three-hour ones on the weekend, can supplement nighttime sleep, but beware of the sleep hangover, he said. The brain has a hard time switching gears from being in a deep sleep to being awake, and a person may feel tired after the nap, he said. After such a long nap, it can take up to an hour to become fully alert, he said.

Before Lee started studying after his hospital rotation, he took a 20-minute nap. "Most of the time, it definitely hit the spot. I wake up feeling a lot more refreshed and able to study the rest of the night," he said.

What about sleeping more? Well, people do try. About 54 percent of adults surveyed in a 2007 National Sleep Foundation report said they make up for sleep loss by getting more sleep on the weekends, and 37 percent said they take naps.

For Lee, sacrificing sleep for med school was worth it, despite moments of extreme tiredness.

"At the end of the day ... [to] be in the position where you can make a difference ... it's pretty rewarding," Lee said. LVIVANCO@TRIBUNE.COM

OPEN SLEEP MYTHS AND REALITY

Don't hit the snooze button here. With all the information floating around about sleep, RedEye talked to experts about the myths and realities of getting a good night's rest. They weighed in on the following questions. LEONOR VIVANCO, REDEYE

Should you sleep in if you can, or let your alarm wake you?

Get as much sleep as you can whenever you can. But if sleeping in on the weekend, beware of having a hard time going to sleep on Sunday night. It's best to keep the wake-up time as consistent as possible. Otherwise, the body's 24-hour biological clock will drift later during the weekend, which contributes to Sunday-night insomnia. Going to sleep earlier is a better way to make up lost sleep.

Are items like sleeping masks, ear plugs and sound machines effective gadgets, or just gimmicks?

It depends on the person. If outside lights and sounds disrupt your sleep, then using such products to reduce light and sound might help you get a better night's sleep. They are big business—sleeping aids including pills, noise machines, aromatherapy and more are a \$23.7 billion a year industry in the U.S.

What foods help you stay awake or wake you up?

To stay up, try an energizing snack during the day that is a combo of fruits or vegetables and protein. Produce provides immediate energy and hydration, and protein extends the energy level with the prolonged release of calories. Think apples and almonds, or string cheese and a pear. Stay away from classic sugary energy zappers like candy bars, cookies and pop, which are good only for a short-term energy boost.

Should you exercise before going to bed?

Research suggests exercise in general is good for sleep health. But working out too close to bed time can cause some people to have trouble falling asleep because their bodies are revved up. If exercising at night, finish the workout at least two hours before going to sleep because it can take some time for your body to calm down to a relaxed state. Other individuals might not have an issue.

Will having a drink before bedtime help you sleep?

Alcohol might help you fall asleep because it's a depressant, but it will disrupt your sleep for the rest of the night. As the alcohol is cleared from your blood stream and brain, your body becomes more alert. Also, alcohol is a diuretic so that means more bathroom trips at night.

SOURCES: JAMES WYATT, DIRECTOR OF THE SLEEP DISORDERS SERVICE AND RESEARCH CENTER ATRUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (ANSWERED QUESTIONS 1, 2, 5); MARKETDATA ENTERPRISES (2); DAWN JACKSON BLATNER, REGISTERED DIETITIAN AND SPOKESWOMAN FOR THE AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION (3); GERALYN COOPERSMITH, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF EQUINOX FITNESS TRAINING INSTITUTE (4)

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 True Gritt (PG-13) + 10:50,1:50,4:35,7:25,10:10
 Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) 10:25,1:15,4:405,7:00,9:55
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 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG-13) 10:35,1:45

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 The King's Speech (R) 1:00,1:30,3:45,4:30,6:30,7:15,9:20,10:00
 Somewhere (R) 1:40,4:20,7:10,9:445,7:30,10:00

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 Yogi Bear 3D (PG) 10:50.1:10.3:40.6:15.8:45,11:05
 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn
 Treader 3D (PG) 11:20.2:05,10:05
 Little Fockers (PG-13) 9:55,10:30,11:30,12:30,1:30,2:30,
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 True Grit (PG-13) 10:15,11:00,1:20,2:00,4:10,5:00,7:20,8:15,
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- 10:15,11:15

 The Fighter (R) (Open captioned) 10:10,6:45

 The Fighter (R) 12:50,3:50,8:00,9:45,11:00

 How Do You Know (PG-13) 10:40,14:40,7:40,10:40

 Yogi Bear (PG) 9:50,12:15,2:45,5:15

 The Tourist (PG-13) 11:55,3:00,5:45,8:20,10:55

 The Chronicles of Namia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) 4:45,7:25

 Tangled (PG) 11:15,1:50,4:20,7:10

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- Little Fockers (PG-13) ★ 11:45,1:45,3:45,5:45,7:45,9:45 True Grit (PG-13) ★ 12:20,2:40,5:00,7:20,9:40 Black Swan (R) 12:30,2:45,5:00,7:15,9:30 The Tourist (PG-13) 12:45,3:00,5:15,7:30,9:50

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- The Tourist (PG-13) 11:20,1:50,4:15,7:10,9:40 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawr Treader (PG) 11:25,2:00,4:45,7:25,10:00
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 The Next Three Days (PG-13) 1:40,4:20,7:00,9:40
 Faster (R) 1:30,3:30,5:30,7:30,9:30

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- Tees Maar Khan (NR) 1:45,4:45,7:45

- Fair Game (PG-13) 7:00 P.M.
 Inside Job (PG-13) 2:45,5:30,8:15
 The Social Network (PG-13) 2:30,5:15,8:00
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 ■Tron: Legacy (PG) 4:30,7:30,10:30
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- AMC Independent Black Swan (R) 11:50,2:30,4:25, 5:20,7:25,8:15,10:15,11:20
 Yogi Bear 3D (PG) ◆ 10:25,12:40,2:55,5:25,7:45,9:50
 Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) 10:00,11:00,1:00,2:00,4:00,5:00,6:56,8:00,10:00,11:05
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- Yogi Bear (PG) ◆ 11:55,2:10 AMC Independent The Fighter (R) 11:10,1:50,2:45, 4:45,7:35,8:25,10:20 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Daw
- Treader 3D (PG) 11:15,2:05,4:50,7:50,10:35

 The Tourist (PG-13) 11:25,2:00,4:35,7:40,10:25 Tangled 3D (PG) 11:25,2:05,4:40,7:20,9:40
- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG-13 11:30,2:50,6:05,9:30
- The Social Network (PG-13) 11:35,5:30,11:10

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC) 7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #2309

- Gulliver's Travels (PG) 9:40 12:10 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:1 ■ AMC Independent The King's Speech [R] 9:50,12:55,407,45,10.11
 ■ Little Fockers [PG-13) 10:00,11:20,12:35,2:00,3:20,4:40,6:00,7:20,8:40,10:00,11:00
 ■ True Grit (PG-13) 9:30,10:55,1:50,3:15,4:45,6:15,7:40,9:10,10:35
- Tron: Legacy (PG) 10:30,11:30,1:40,2:40,4:50,5:50,8:00,9:00,10:55

- AMC Independent Black Swan (R) 10:15,1:05,3:55,6:50,9:40
 Yogi Bear 3D (PG) 9:55,12:15,2:45,5:05,7:30,9:55
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 Tron: Legacy: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG)
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 Yogi Bear (PG) 11:15,1:35,4:05
 AMC Independent The Fighter (R) 10:50,1:45,4:55,7:50,10:50
 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D (PG) 11:45,2:35,5:40,8:30
 The Tourist (PG-13) 9:35,1:2:05,2:50,5:35,8:20,10:55
 Tangled (PG) 10:25,1:10,3:45,6:35,9:15
 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG-13)
 9:30,1:2:40,3:50,7:10,10:40
- 9:30,12:40,3:50,7:10,10:40

 Megamind (PG) 12:25 P.M.

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago

- (800) 326-3264 #1641
- The Green Hornet (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
- The Green Hornet (H2-13) Advance Tickets Available
 Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) (10:20,120,4:10,7:20,10:15)
 Little Fockers (PG-13) 11:00,12:00,1:30,2:30,4:00,5:00,6:30,7:30,9:00,10:00
 True Gritt (PG-13) 12:15,1:45,2:45,4:30,5:15,7:00,7:45,9:45,10:20
 How Do You Know (PG-13) 10:10,1:15,4:20,7:10,10:05
 Yogi Bear (PG) 11:40,2:20,4:40,6:50,9:10
 The Fighter (P) 11:20,2:10,4:50,7:40,10:30
 The Fighter (Pd) 11:20,2:10,4:50,7:40,10:30

- The Tourist (PG-13) 12:20,2:50,5:20,7:50,10:25 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn
- Treader 3D (PG) 10:40,1:40,9:50

 Gulliver's Travels (PG) 10:50,1:10,3:30,5:45,8:00,10:10

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #1646

- Gulliver's Travels (PG) 10:50,1:15,3:35,5:50,8:15,10:35 Little Fockers (PG-13) 11:00,1:35,4:15,7:00,9:45 Tron: Legacy (PG) 10:45,12:00,1:40,5:00,4:35,6:00,7:30,9:00,10:25 True Grit (PG-13) 11:30,2:00,4:45,7:20,10:00

- Yogi Bear 3D (PG) 12:30,2:45,5:00,7:15,9:30 How Do You Know (PG-13) 11:10,2:05,4:55,7:40,10:30 AMC Independent The Fighter (R) 10:55,1:50,3:15, 4:50,6:00,7:35,9:15,10:15 Yogi Bear (PG) 11:20,1:45,4:00,6:15,8:30 The Tourist (PG-13) 11:35,2:10,5:05,7:50,10:20 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) 11:05,1:55,4:40,7:25,10:05 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG-13) 11:15 AM. Tangled (PG) 11:25,1:55,4:20,6:45,9:20 Megamind (PG) 12:15 P.M.
- Megamind (PG) 12:15 P.M.
 Unstoppable (PG-13) 2:30,5:15,7:45,10:10

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

4779 W. Cermak., Cicero (800) 326-3264 #1644

- Gulliver's Travels (PG) 10:50,1:10,3:15,5:20,7:35,9:50 Little Fockers (PG-13) 10:35,12:00,1:00,2:20,3:20,4:50, 5:50,7:15,8:15,9:45,10:45 Tron: Legacy (PG) 10:45,1:45,1:45,2:45,4:40,5:45,7:45,8:45,10:45
- True Grit (PG-13) 11:40.2:15.5:05.7:40.10:20 ■ Irue Grift (PG-13) 11:40,2:15,5:05,7:40,10:20 ■ Yogi Bear 3D (PG) 10:30,12:30,2:30,4:45,7:00,9:15 ■ How Do You Know (PG-13) 11:15,2:05,5:10,7:50,10:30 ■ AMC Independent The Flighter (R) 11:05,1:50,2:50, 4:35,5:35,7:20,8:30,10:05 ■ Yogi Bear (PG) 11:30,1:30,3:30 ■ The Touriet (PG-13) 11:20,2:00,4:55,7:30,10:00
- The Tourist (PG-13) 11:20,2:00,4:55,7:30,10:00
 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn
- Treader (PG) 10:40,1:15,3:50,6:35,9:10

 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG-13)
- Tangled (PG) 11:00,1:40,4:30,7:25,10:10 Megamind (PG) 12:15 P.M.

SHOWPLACE ICON

AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago

- (312) 564-2104
- Gulliver's Travels 3D (PG) ★ 10:15,12:30,3:45,6:10,8:30,11:00 The King's Speech (R) ★ 10:25,1:15,4:10,7:10,10:15 Little Fockers(PG-13) ★ 10:10,10:45,12:50,12:0,3:30,4:20,6:00,7:20,8:40,10:10,11:15 True Grift (PG-13) ★ 10:30,01:10,1:30,2:00,4:30,5:10,7:30,

- True Grit (PG-13) ★ 10:30,11:10,1:30,2:00,4:30,5:10,7:30,8:10,1:30,11:10 Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) ★ 10:00,12:15,1:00,3:15,4:00,6:20,7:00,9:20,10:00 Yogi Bear 3D (PG) ★ 11:20,1:40,3:50,6:30,9:10 The Fighter (R) ★ 10:50,1:45,4:40,7:45,10:40 How Do You Know (PG-13) ★ 11:00,1:50,4:45,8:00,10:50 The Tempest (PG-13) ★ 9:30 P.M. The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D (PG) 10:05,12:40,3:20,6:50,9:40 Black Swan (R) 10:40,1:140,1:10,2:20,4:15,5:00,7:16,7:50,9:55,10:45 The Tourist (PG-13) 11:30,2:10,4:50,7:40,10:20 Tangled 3D (PG) 10:20,12:45,3:40,6:40

VIP Premium 21+

■ Little Fockers (PG-13) ★ VIP Premium 21+ 10:10, 12:50,3:30,6:00,8:40,11:15 ■ True Grit (PG-13) ★ VIP Premium 21+10:30,1:30,4:30,7:30,10:30

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC) 1022 Lake Street, Oak Park (630) 444-FILM #560

- Little Fockers (PG-13) ★ 12:15,2:30,4:45,7:00,9:15 Yogi Bear 3D (PG) ★ 12:45,2:45,4:45,6:45,8:45 Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) ★ 1:40,4:20,7:00,9:40 How Do You Know (PG-13) ★ 1:00,4:00,6:50,9:30 True Grit (PG-13) ★ 1:20,0:2:25,4:50,7:15,9:40 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D (PG) 1:30,4:00,6:30,9:00 The Tourist (PG-13) 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00

EVANSTON CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY) 1715 Maple Ave., Evanston (847) 492-0123 &

- (847) 492-0123 G.

 Gulliver's Travels 3D (PG) ★ 11:55,2:15,4:30,7:10,9:30

 Little Fockers (PG-13) ★ ♦ 11:45,1:00,2:25,3:20,4:45,6:05,7:15,8:30,9:50,11:00

 True Grit (PG-13) ★ ♦ 11:30,12:50,2:10,3:30,4:50,6:10,7:30,8:50,10:10,11:30

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 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D (PG) 11:00,1:40,4:20,6:55,9:40

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- 10:40 P.M. How Do You Know (PG-13) * *11:15,2:00,4:55,7:45,10:35 **Tangled 3D (PG) 12:55,3:25,5:45,8:10 The Fighter (R) * * 11:10,2:10,5:00,7:05,7:50,10:00,10:45 **The King's Speech (R) * 11:20,12:35,2:15,3:45,5:10,
- The Social Network (PG-13) ♦ 11:20,12:35,2:15,3:49,5:10 6:30,7:85,9:20,10:50 The Social Network (PG-13) ♦ 11:25, P.M. The Tourist (PG-13) ♦ 11:50,2:20,4:50,7:20,9:50 Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) ★ 11:20,4:10,7:00,9:55 Tron: Legacy 3D (PG) ★ 12:0,4:10,7:00,9:55

- Yogi Bear (PG) ★ ◆ 12:25,2:30,4:35 Yogi Bear 3D (PG) ★ 11:25,1:25,3:35,5:35,7:40,9:45



Wacker tracker North-south rehab to kick off next week

Chicago Tribune

People who drive, walk, ride a bus or pedal a bicycle in downtown Chicago might want to mark December 2012 on their calendar as the completion date for the next Wacker Drive reconstruction project.

But before you do that, make a big red circle around Jan. 3, and maybe add a few exclamation points or scribble an unhappy face.

Picking up where the last Wacker project left off eight years ago, demolition will begin in one week, weather permitting, to rebuild the 55-year-old section of Upper and Lower Wacker from Randolph to Monroe streets, according to the Chicago Department of Transportation.

Moving from north to south, the work will be followed by reconstruction of the section from Monroe to Van Buren Street starting in January 2012 through December of that year.

The work starting next week will close Wacker between Lake and Madison streets, including the intersections of Wacker and Randolph, and Wacker and Washington Street.

Franklin Street will be converted to a two-way street, and northbound and southbound Wacker traffic will be detoured to Franklin, the city transportation agency said.

There will be much to celebrate when the project, estimated to cost \$300 million, is done two years from now. The double-merge from Lower Wacker and the Franklin Street ramp onto westbound Congress Parkway will be history. It will be replaced by a single-merge lane from Lower Wacker that provides a longer distance for drivers to find an opening in traffic, officials said.

Drivers also likely will appreciate the new leftturn lane for northbound Upper Wacker traffic at Randolph. A new ramp from Upper to Lower Wacker at Monroe will also be added, eliminating the nerve-wracking approach that existed under the original 1950s Wacker design and replacing it with space for drivers to merge more gently into traffic.

Mayor Daley's fondness of street furniture also will be prominent in the overhaul. Landscaped medians, sidewalk planters and decorative light fixtures will be installed on Upper Wacker, in keeping with the boulevard's ornamentation.

On the lower level, the new vertical clearance will be increased by more than a foot to prevent trucks from getting wedged into the ceiling, transportation officials said. In addition, the service drive used by trucks to make deliveries to high-rise buildings will be separated from regular traffic lanes.

But first, the pain. The closing of part of Wacker will mean that 60,000 vehicles that use Upper and Lower Wacker each day will be detoured, officials said. Starting Jan. 3, there will be street closings, traffic detours and reroutings of 13 CTA bus lines that usually operate along Wacker, Randolph and Washington.

Blue Line service restored

Service on Blue Line trains in Logan Square was back to normal Sunday afternoon after a fire on the tracks caused disruptions in the morning. The fire caused moderate levels of smoke in the subway tunnel.

1 killed, 2 injured in car crash

A woman was killed and two others, including a child, were injured in a car accident on the Near West Side early Sunday morning, police said. About 2 a.m., a vehicle traveling in the 1600 block West Harrison Street crashed into a pole, according to police.

Charge: 'Mobile meth lab'

A Washington state man faces drug charges after he was found outside the Rogers Park District police station in the back of a taxi Saturday, seated beside a duffel bag holding an alleged "mobile meth lab" and nearly \$450,000 worth of suspected methamphetamine.

Vacant buildings on the rise

The South Shore building where two firefighters died Wednesday is among an estimated 16,000 vacant buildings in the city, a number that has grown as the economy has withered, the Tribune reports.

Obama's campaign headquarters in Chicago?

The White House says President Obama has not made a decision on where to locate his reelection headquarters for 2012, but observers tell the Tribune they expect the campaign to return to its 2008 base: Chicago. TRIBUNE



Travelers snowed out

A powerful storm system that prompted blizzard warnings in New York City (above) and Boston caused major travel headaches at the end of the holiday weekend. Hundreds of flights were canceled for Sunday.

'Spider-Man' actor update

Heartened by visits from cast members, the actor seriously injured while performing a stunt in the "Spider-Man" musical is walking and wants to return to the show, his father said.

Aftershocks hit New Zealand

A series of aftershocks Sunday cracked buildings and caused items to tumble off shelves in Christchurch, New Zealand. The aftershocks are from a magnitude 7.0 earthquake in September.

8 killed in tour bus crash

A tour bus slammed into a parked dump truck in southern Egyptkilling eight Americans on board, according to reports on Sunday. Nineteen other tourists from the U.S. were hurt.

Gitmo not closing soon

It has been a year since the Obama administration said the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, military prison would close. But White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said Sunday it won't happen anytime soon.

New York imam to tour

The imam behind the controversial Islamic community center and mosque planned near the site of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York will begin a nationwide speaking tour next month to promote the project and encourage interfaith dialogue, a spokeswoman said Friday.

Booth relatives seeking truth about Lincoln killer

PHILADELPHIA In life, Edwin and John Wilkes Booth were brothers, ambitious actors and bitter rivals. They ruthlessly competed for the limelight on stages in Philadelphia and across the na-

Edwin became one of America's greatest Shakespearean actors, while John Wilkes achieved infamy in another role—as the assassin of Abraham Lincoln, at Ford's Theater in Washington.

Now, for the first time, Booth descen-

dants have agreed to exhume Edwin's body. adding drama to the family's story and delighting historians who have speculated that John Wilkes escaped capture 145 years

By using DNA comparisons between the brothers, relatives hope to learn in the coming months whether the lore of John Wilkes Booth's flight is true.

Is Lincoln's assassin in an unmarked grave at Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore, as history records? Or did he elude justice, as descendants have been told for generations, to live 38 more years?

"I'm absolutely in favor of exhuming Edwin," said Joanne Hulme, 60, a resident of Philadelphia's Kensington section who is the historian in the Booth family. "Let's have the truth and put this thing to rest."

"John Wilkes Booth is probably loving this," said Lois Trebisacci, 60, of Westerly, R.I., whose grandfather was Edwin Booth's grandson. "Just being an actor, I'm sure he loves the controversy."



An Indonesian miner crosses a makeshift bridge as he carries baskets of sulphur from the bottom of a crater on Kajah Iwen volcano. Some 350 sulphur miners eke out a dangerous and exhausting living on the volcano. **GETTY IMAGES**

Aide: Obama hasn't smoked in 9 months

President Obama may have kicked his smoking habit once and for all. It has been about nine months since the president's last cigarette, according to White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

In an interview on CNN's "State of the Union," Gibbs said the president still chews Nicorette, but that the president used "stubborn willpower" to stop.

"It was a commitment that I think he made to himself at the end of the health care [debate] and with his two daughters in mind," Gibbs told CNN Chief Political Correspondent Candy Crowley.

Gibbs also said this is the longest period, in the almost eight years he's known the president, that Obama has gone without smoking.

"It's really stuck," Gibbs said.



THE DIGIT

The gap between the rich and the middle class is larger than it has ever been due to the bursting of the housing bubble. The richest 1 percent of U.S. households had a net worth 225 times greater than that of the average American household in 2009, according to analysis conducted by the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal think tank.

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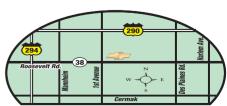


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NEW TIME

The NFL has announced that Sunday's Bears game at Green Bay has been moved to a 3:15 p.m. kickoff on Fox.



RedEye's sports crew predicts the score of the Bears game every week. Here's how they compared with Sunday's 38-34 Bears win, complete with our accuracy meter.

METER

So fa

So close

















A sonic zoom

Bears ignite their offense just in time to streak past pesky Jets

Chicago Tribune

Rex Ryan wasn't doubting the Bears' special teams when he called a fake punt on the opening possession of the second half at the N.Y. Jets' 40-yard line. He was doing something far more understandable.

Ryan was avoiding kicking to Devin Hester while showing he had little fear of the Bears' offense if the play failed. After Rashied Davis broke up a pass to Brad Smith on the fake, Ryan probably wasn't the only one surprised when Jay Cutler hooked up with Johnny Knox for a 40-yard touchdown on the next play.

In Week 16, Mike Martz's offense finally showed some explosiveness, and it did so against a Jets defense that entered ranked fifth in the NFL. The Bears (11-4) scored four touchdowns of 20 yards or longer in a 38-34 victory Sunday at Soldier Field, taking a step closer to securing a first-

NICC NODELL			
NFC NORTH	W	L	PCT
BEARS	11	4	.733
Green Bay	9	6	.600
Minnesota	5	9	.357
Detroit	5	10	.333

round playoff bye.

The Bears close the regular season Sunday at Green Bay with the rival Packers (9-6) gun-

ning for a wild-card berth. A Bears victory would ensure them of at least the No. 2 seed.

The typically plodding Bears had scored only

WEEK 16

CAROLINA 3	DALLAS 26	NEW ENGLAND 34	BALTIMORE 20	WASHINGTON 20	TENNESSEE 14	DETROIT 34	SAN FRANCISCO 17
PITTSBURGH 27	ARIZONA 27	BUFFALO 3	CLEVELAND 10	JACKSONVILLE 17	KANSAS CITY 34	MIAMI 27	SEATTLE 25

Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher goes airborne Sunday as he tries to block a pass by N.Y. Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez. NUCCIO DINUZZO/TRIBUNE PHOTOS



six touchdowns from outside the red zone before Sunday and had only two in the previous nine games, including Knox's 67-yard touchdown Monday at Minnesota.

They've talked about the offense being a work in progress, and suddenly a squirt gun has been replaced by something with real ammunition.

In a season with many unexpected discoveries, the Bears winning a shootout in late December on patchy home turf a week after scoring 40 points in the snow against the Vikings ranks right up there.

"We're coming together," right guard Roberto Garza said. "We've still got a long way to go. Still a work in progress but we know what we can do."

Faced with controversy during the week about what appears to be a foot fetish thing Ryan has going with his wife, Michelle, now he has to live down a fake when his team led by a touchdown and seemingly enjoyed the momentum. The Jets



BYE-ING IN?

The Bears will clinch a first-round bye in the playoffs if ...

- » Philadelphia loses one of its last two games.
- » The Bears beat Green Bay on Sunday.

The Bears can clinch the No. 1 seed in the NFC if all four of these scenarios play out:

- » The Bears beat Green Bay on Sunday;
- » Atlanta loses its last two games;
- » New Orleans loses to Tampa Bay in Week 17;
- » Philadelphia loses or ties one of its last two games.

(10-5) backed into the playoffs when Washington toppled Jacksonville in overtime, likely helping Ryan move on from the bungled plot.

"What yard line were they on?" asked Greg Olsen, who was surprised with the answer. "Glad they did it because next play we scored a touchdown."



bear hunting

Good Bears, bad Bears and hurting Bears this week.

YUMMI BEAR Matt Forte

More than a handful of Bears played well Sunday, but Forte became the first player to rush for more than 100 yards against the Jets this season. He ran for 113 yards and a TD and racked up 56 receiving yards.

POO BEAR

Julius Peppers

There was hardly a peep out of the defensive lineman, who tallied just one tackle and barely bothered Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez. Not the time for your defensive star to turn invisible.



GRISLY BEAR

Rod Marinelli

The defensive coordinator was fine physically, but no doubt his pride was wounded after the Bears surrendered 34 points to a Jets team that had struggled offensively its past four games.

Gould loses a little luster

Admit it: You thought it would never happen. You thought it was as automatic as the Soldier Field grass crumbling like stale Christmas cookies or Lovie Smith curing insomnia at his news conferences.

Yep, until Sunday, you never thought Robbie Gould would miss another field goal from inside 40 yards. But miss one



he did, pushing a 35-yarder off the mark with II:26 remaining in the fourth quarter against the N.Y. Jets. He had made 64 straight kicks of fewer than 40 yards until that point.

Not what Bears fans needed with their team nursing a four-point lead as they're trying to nail down a first-round playoff bye. Fortunately, Chris Harris' interception put the Jets out of their misery and kept fans' hopes afloat.

Of course, better for Gould to miss now than, say, with the game on the line in the postseason.

OH YES!

Tom Brady

In other streak news, New England quarterback Brady now has thrown 319 consecutive passes without an interception, eclipsing the NFL mark of 308 set by Bernie Kosar with Cleveland in the 1990-91 seasons. Maybe now people will be able to see past Brady's Justin Bieber hairdo. Or not.

OH NO!

David Garrard

The Jacksonville quarterback torpedoed his team's playoff chances, throwing an interception in overtime that the Washington Redskins turned into the winning field goal.

UH-OH!

Minnesota Vikings

The Vikings need a hug. First the Metrodome roof collapses and they have to play a "home" game in Detroit. Then they have to borrow a college stadium to play their next home game. Now they have to wait until Tuesday to play at Philadelphia because of a blizzard. So sad. Then again, this is the team that begged Brett Favre not to retire—again.

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

TUESDAY'S GAME

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Atlanta vs. New Orleans 7:30 p.m. ESPN

PHILADELPHIA VS. MINNESOTA, 7 P.M.

five on five

Snow job

We hear these five are available to shovel your driveway. It's not as if we need them to entertain you in this panel. redeyechicago.com/5on5.

TOPIC

Why do opposing quarterbacks keep getting hurt before they play the Bears?

... rum-spiked egg nog is to

a family Christmas gather-

ing. Too much, and things

Each year I regift Ronnie

Woo-Woo only to get him

"Got your nose." Amare

got mad because Derrick

... the Hawks can quit "Hossa-

ing" around and win some

games! (That one's for you.

wouldn't give it back.

Tracy Swartz.)

aet ualy.

right back.

Briggs and Urlacher ...)

ERNEST WILKINS

I'd find a way to get myself on IR, too.

SARAH SPAIN

... booze is to roller skating. Not ideal, but definitely makes things more interesting.

If I had to face Julius Peppers,

I think our good friends in St. Louis would just LOVE Ronnie Woo-Woo under their tree.

es, but in your case, I might make an exception."

"I never hit a man with glass-

JIM WALSH

It's easier than getting their feelings hurt after a loss.

... snow is to everything

Kerry Wood.

else: cool at first, but then

generally pretty annoying.

Favre envy

... foot fetishes are to NFL coaches. Fun at first, but they

MARCSILVERMAN

just make things too messy.

Giving my lump of coal to Tom Ricketts. Has he given us anything yet?

He was just peeved about the fruitcake Stoudemire gave him before the game. What kind of gift is that?

... Ohio has one more thing to cry about.

.. can he be loaned to the Bulls to play shooting guard?

"Don't mess with me,

Keith Bogans stinks!

my back!"

biznatch. Scalabrine has

Snow is to football as ...

you like to regift?

on-court confrontation?

Hossa back ...

Whom in Chicago sports would

What did Derrick Rose say to

Amare Stoudemire during their

Now that the Hawks have Marian

Our voodoo doll technology has advanced considerably this year.

ELLIOTT SERRANO

Maybe they're allergic to Peppers? (And Harris and

... playing Twister with your family. Fun to look at, awkward to be a part of

Everyone on the Bulls not named Rose or Boozer right now.

"Hey, those goggles you're wearing? This is the NBA, not shop class, you clown."

... I can worry about other things, like telling my buddy Jake to feel better! Love ya, big guy.

.. it's only a matter of time before someone else goes down Sad but true

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Bulls quard Derrick Rose (left) drives to the basket against Detroit's Ben Gordon on Sunday, GETTY IMAGES

BULLS 95, DETROIT 92 (OT)

No holiday hangover

Bulls bounce back from loss to Knicks with gritty effort

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. Taj Gibson joked he has to get back to hitting the weights after a medically imposed ban while he recovered from his Dec. 18 con-

But Gibson pushed and clawed enough to grab nine rebounds Sunday against Detroit to accompany his five points in 30 minutes, 17 more than he logged on Saturday in the Bulls' loss to New York.

"Taj was high energy," coach Tom Thibodeau said. "He had some shots that were really good shots that didn't fall. But his defense and rebounding were excellent. He was very active."

Gibson missed six of eight shots but said he feels fully recovered from his injury.

"Coach pushed me hard in practice (Friday)," Gibson said. "I can tell he wants me to get back to defense and rebounding."

As for the Bulls as a whole, they did just enough against Detroit as they held on for a 95-92 overtime victory. Carlos Boozer tallied 31 points and 11 rebounds and Derrick Rose added 23 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists.

The Bulls took the lead for good when Boozer found Ronnie Brewer underneath for a layup with 3 minutes left.

The Bulls led 85-79 with just over a minute left in regulation when they fell apart.

Rose missed a jumper and the Pistons got four shots off on one possession to tie the game on Charlie Villanueva's tip-in with 0.6 seconds left. The Bulls failed to rebound misses by Tracy McGrady and two Richard Hamilton jumpers.

dog dare

The whole week between Christmas and New Year's Eve should be a holiday. Nobody can concentrate. I can't, at least. Less than usual, that is. Here now, my picks. Let's see yours.



Falcons 31, Saints 27. Huge game, and the Bears are cheering for the Saints.



Hoosiers 70. Nittany Lions 61. Since this is a Big Ten matchup, scores in the 50s wouldn't surprise me.



Wolves 5, Griffins 3. If only the Wolves could crush the Griffins on "Family Guy."



To challenge Whizzer, go to redeyechicago. com/homers or text "whiz" followed by your picks to **87708**. Don't forget your name.



BLACKHAWKS 4. COLUMBUS 1



Patrick Sharp scored twice, and Tomas Kopecky and Dave Bolland added goals as the Blackhawks dropped Columbus 4-1 on Sunday night at the United Center. Goaltender Marty Turco, thrust into the starting role with Corey Crawford sidelined with an illness, made 26

saves to earn his first victory since Nov. 17. Columbus' Derick Brassard scored with just over two minutes remaining in the third to spoil Turco's shutout bid.

Marian Hossa returned after missing 10 games with a lower-body injury and chipped in two assists for the Hawks (20-14-3). Fellow winger Troy Brouwer also had two assists as the Hawks won their fourth straight.

Mike Singletary's days with the San Francisco 49ers appear numbered. Team president Jed York addressed reporters in St. Louis after the Niners' 25-17 loss Sunday and was noncommittal about whether the former Bears linebacker will coach the season finale at home Sunday against Arizona. He said money isn't an object in the decision, considering Singletary has two years remaining on his contract.



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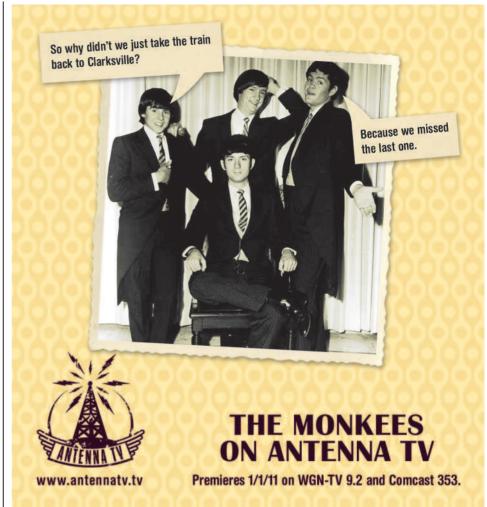
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metromix

Gone baby gone

A look back on this year's bar and restaurant closings

By Lisa Arnett

This year brought a fleet of food trucks, a slew of small-plates spots and a Taylor Street renaissance, but it also took more than a few casualties on the bars and restaurant scenes. Here's a rundown of which spots bit the dust this year, plus new destinations to fill your cravings.



RIP: CND Gyros

Many a workweek beer was savored at this shabby Streeterville tayern.

Now get your fix at: Snickers (448 N. State St. 312-527-0437), reliably keeping the dive bar/grill combo alive in River North.

RIP: Reagle Beagle

This Mag Mile hangout shed its shag carpeting and "Three's Company" theme to reopen as Grami, a more modern but bland Chicagothemed bar and grill.

Now get your fix at: Beauty Bar (1444 W. Chicago Ave. 312-226-8828), attempting a retro revival in a decidedly hipper way, thanks to vintage salon fixtures, pin-curl-sporting bartenders and Technicolor martinis.

RIP: Mado

When Rob and Allie Levitt left the kitchen at this Bucktown eatery, the restaurant's rustic cuisine and snout-to-tail philosophy left with them. Following their exit, the restaurant closed and reopened with a radically different menu. It has since closed again.

Now get your fix at: The Butcher & Larder (1026 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-687-8280), the Levitt's boutique butchery/sandwich shop aiming to open sometime this week in Noble Square.

RIP: Dirty Martini

Though this sliver of a River North lounge wasn't a whole lot to look at, it was a trailblazer in the then-unheard-of vodka on tap trend.

Now get your fix at: Sully's House (1501 N. Dayton St. 773-244-1234), an Old Town tavern now pouring Ketel One vodka and Bushmills Black Bush whiskey from its taps. While you're there, say hi to Megan Qualley, Metromix's 2010 Best Bartender.

RIP: Smoke Shack

Lincoln Park lost a bit of spice when this latenight barbecue joint closed this summer.

Now get your fix at: Lillie's Q (1856 W. North Ave. 773-772-5500) in Bucktown. The kitchen's not open quite as late (till 11 p.m.), but the tri-tip and fried pickles are worth making it an earlier night.

RIP: Follia

Bruno Abate's fashionable Italian restaurant in the West Loop closed in April. In tandem with the former Fulton Lounge space next door, it's the future site of the Alinea team's time-travel restaurant Next and cocktail lounge Aviary. **Now get your fix at: Tocco.** It's Abate's sole spot in Chicago, at least until he delivers on Momento, a restaurant concept he's forecasting



RIP: Dos Gringos

If you miss this Cancun-themed cantina that partied hard in Wrigleyville for just a few months before shutting down, we won't judge. Though service was a mess, the tequila was cheap.

Now get your fix at: Paradise Cantina (1212 N. State Parkway. 312-202-0994), a Cabo-inspired cantina serving mucho margaritas just off Division's party-hard tourist strip.

MORE ONLINE!

Log on to **metromix.com** to check out "Then and now: Chicago bars and restaurants," a photo gallery of the ever-evolving dining and nightlife scenes.

LISA ARNETT IS THE METROMIX DINING PRODUCER.
LMARNETT@TRIBUNE.COM

RIP: The 44th Ward Dinner Party

We made serious memories at this Lakeview grilled cheese bar. Remember when Metromix movies critic Matt Pais ate his way through the entire menu on opening weekend?

Now get your fix at: Grahamwich (615 N. State St. 312-624-9188), Graham Elliot's recently opened sandwich shop, where the grilled cheese packs an intoxicatingly rich combo of Wisconsin cheddar, cheese curds and prosciutto.

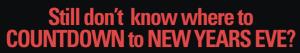


RIP: Fianco

Chef Matt Troost charmed us with his comforting pasta dishes at this Southport Italian eatery, until it closed back in January.

Now get your fix at: Three Aces (1321 W. Taylor St. 312-243-1577), the Little Italy small-plates spot where Troost's cooking up pancetta-topped pizzettas and papardelle bolognese.

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And the winner is ...

By Ryan Smith

FOR REDEYE

Let's face it — a lot of groups get their video game awards wrong. Even with Neil Patrick Harris hosting the broadcast, Spike TV's recent "Video Game Awards" only managed to draw 627,000 viewers — less than 5 percent of the average audience of "Survivor: Nicaragua." Stodgy old Time magazine didn't do any better, handing a Game of the Year award to the underwhelming action-mystery game "Alan Wake" over the obvious choice — "Red Dead Redemption." RedEye has a leaner and meaner brand of video game awards.

RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR



Worst Best Game of the Year Award "Call of Duty: Black Ops"

The pulpy plot of the new mega-blockbuster "Call of Duty" game takes elements of movies such as "Fight Club" and "The Manchurian Candidate" and uncomfortably meshes them with a 1960's Cold War-era story in a way that makes for a lot of explosions, but little sense. Yet, as ludicrous as the campaign is, "Black Ops" stellar multiplayer still keeps us up until the wee hours of the night. We don't like ourselves for it, but "Call of Duty" stays in our Xbox more than any other game this year.

Hottest Sex Scene Award

"Commander Shepard and Jack," "Mass Effect 2"

In a game that treads dangerously close to "The Bachelor" territory because of all of the romantic options available, the flirtations between Commander Shepard (if you choose to play the game as a male) and the bald, tattooed, leather-thong wearing badass named Jack are the most intriguing. Approach Jack in her prison-like chamber and tell her you're interested in a little romp, and she'll throw you around, getting physical in a way that would even make Kim Kardashian blush.



Best Exercise Game That Isn't An Exercise Game Award

"Dance Central" and "The Fight" (tie)

Exercise games might be beneficial for fitness purposes, but developers should go ahead and drop the word "game" from their descriptions because they're painfully boring. For a real exercise "game," try "Dance Central," a hip-hop and pop-friendly dance title for the Kinect that will make you sweat but won't make you yawn in the process. The same can be said for "The Fight." an underrated street-fighting game for

PlayStation 3's Move motion control system that forces you to put some real mustard on your uppercuts.

Coolest Use of Zombies Award

"Red Dead Redemption: Undead Night-

Pirates? Beyond over. Vampires? So totally, like, 2009. This year, zombies became such a huge cultural force that undead



characters seem to outnumber the living in popular entertainment and gaming. But just as it seemed like including the walking dead would become the worst kind of crutch for game developers, "Red Dead Redemption" released an expansion pack for its Old Westbased shooter that made zombies interesting again.



The Social Life Killer Award

"World of Warcraft: Cataclysm" and "Civilization V" (Tie)

Just when we escaped the clutches of "World of Warcraft" and "Civilization IV" — both major munchers of time — out comes brand new PC versions that will ensure we'll never see our friends and loved ones. "WoW" is for dragon-obsessed, fantasy-loving D&D geeks and "Civ V" is aimed at historical-fiction-reading control freaks, but they've both captured our hearts and minds.



The Sims Game Thinly Disguised as a Fantasy RPG Award

"Fable III"

You've tricked us one too many times, Microsoft. You present "Fable" titles as hack-and-slash action games where we'll be busy doing all sorts of macho stuff like battling skeletons in dingy dungeons. Yet as the series goes on, the gameplay seems to center more on pulling off secret handshakes with villagers, playing dress-up with fancy costumes, and giving diamond rings to potential mates. Just be honest and call the next "Fable" something like, "The Sims: Renaissance Fair Edition."

Hot Retro Decade of the Year

The 1990s

Movies aren't the only medium obsessed with remakes from decades past. This year saw the revival of "Goldeneye," "Donkey Kong Country," "NBA Jam," "Sonic the Hedgehog," "Splatterhouse" and other long buried Clinton-era games. There's nothing wrong with a '90s revival, but we just hope "Saved by the Bell" and The Spice Girls stay far, far away.

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Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You're the life of the party as Mercury kicks up your comedic talents. You'll entertain people at a New Year's gathering, sharing all of your wildest sexual escapades with a group of complete strangers. Along the way, you could attract attention from a sexy someone.



Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

Venus is putting you in one of your clingy moods. You don't want to share your honey with anybody else. You'll demand 24-hour-a-day attention from your partner without any interruptions. Just realize that sometimes you can be a little smothering with your adoration.



Aries March 21-April 19

A moon opposition is making you grumpy about the new vear. Chill out and relax. Spend time snuggling with a "friend with benefits." Or hang out with people who enjoy your company-without conditions or restrictions.



Taurus April 20-May 20

You're in a sentimental mood, thanks to Pluto. You're thinking about that former lover you haven't seen in a long time. You could post naked pictures of yourself to your blog or Facebook page in an effort to lure out him or her.



BIRTHDAY! Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19

An emotional moon is making it hard for you to relax. You keep thinking about that job you're about to lose or that situation with your kids that's driving you nuts. Take a break from it all. Book a weekend at a hotel with your sweetheart and run away.



Gemini May 21-June 21

As Mercury goes direct, you're feeling less doomed about your relationship. It's OK that your girlfriend has a Justin Bieber obsession or your guy thinks that "culture" means watching something for five minutes on PBS.



Cancer June 22-July 22

You should let your honey spoil you rotten. A Mars opposition means that this isn't the time to make any major moves in your life. Don't quit your job, buy a house or get engaged. Instead, ask your partner to indulge your wildest sensual fantasies.



Leo July 23-Aug. 22

You could be tempted to get into one of those pointless "Where is this relationship headed?" discussions. Don't do it. A moon opposition means that you could be in a negative state of mind, and this could make your partner decide to drop you in a ditch.



Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Mercury, your ruler, is going direct, and those holiday stresses are fading fast. You're realizing that it's OK to be imperfect. So what if you burned the turkey? Count your blessings. Focus on expressing adoration for your longsuffering sweetheart.



Libra *Sept.* 23-Oct. 23

A bouncy moon has you feeling restless. You're hanging out with one honey, but you're daydreaming about a different honey. You could be juggling several romantic entanglements at once. Don't break any hearts, OK?



Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 21

Your family is driving you nuts. Your mom keeps asking when you're getting married. Your dad keeps pressuring you to go back to school for an advanced degree. Meanwhile, you just want to live your life. Pluto says ignore the critics.



Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You could be filled with mischievous thoughts as the new year approaches. You're thinking about showing up naked on your ex-lover's doorstep, hoping you'll be invited inside to get warm. It could backfire. The moon says proceed cautiously.







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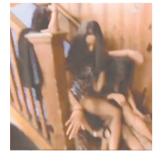
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The Situation cries after meeting a woman who doesn't recognize him

Odds: 40-1 Please, do you really think anyone in Jersey doesn't know who he is? Especially after "Dancing with the Stars"?



The over-under on number of times cast members fall down stairs

We saw two instances in the two-minute preview alone. This does not bode well for bruising



Snooki's buddy and new housemate Deena smushing with at least two "Shore"-mates

Odds: 2-1

In the very first episode of the new season, she strips for The Situation. And we all know what happens when The Situation sees a naked lady.



DJ Pauly D's fame as an MC begins to overshadow his "Jersey" fame, causing tension

Odds: 20-1 Three words: Swarovski. Crystal. Laptop. Next, please.



Jwoww actually knocks out someone's teeth Odds: 3-2

Of all the "Shore" cast members, she's the one we'd least like to tangle with. And that includes Ronnie, whose arms are bigger than our head at

this point.



Vinny fades from the spotlight completely

Odds: 3-1 In the show's second season, previously sweet Vinny figured out that you catch more cameras with vulgarity and began his journey down Jerkbag Lane. Being a nice guy was what made Vinny special, so we see him moving

into obscurity this year.

txtable



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DIFFICULTY RATING:

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SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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ACROSS

- Boy Make sore by rubbing
- Rullets
- 13 TV's "American _"
- 15 Navajo dwelling 16 Kidney stone symptom 17 _ up; relax 18 Wear away 19 Mischievous girl of

- old cartoons
 20 Errand boy
 22 Alero maker
 23 Back talk
 24 Juicy Fruit or Extra
- 26 Larry, Moe or Curly Joe 29 Large city in Australia
- 34 Deserves 35 Passing fad

- 36 Skillet 37 "Woe is me!" 38 Glow
- 39 Empty space
 40 "Thanks a _!"
 41 Halo wearer
 42 Begin a volleyball game

- 43 Moving furtively 45 Dissolved 46 Nothing 47 Capital of Ukraine 48 Take care of
- 51 Lack of flavor 56 Above 57 Lubricated
- 58 Work hard 60 French mother
- 61 Cherub 62 Christmas

- 63 Forehead 64 Josh with 65 Fireplace burner

DOWN

- Recline
- _ and Eve Prescribed amount Brie or Edam
- Antlers
- Very eager
- Lose color
- Self-assurance 10 Manhandle
- Not spicy Burden

37

40

43

60

- 14 Things learned 21 Droops 25 Take advantage of
- 26 Barking marine mammals
- 27 Animal's claw 28 Preach 29 _ up; mention

61

30 Carry on31 Toward ship's left side

33 Stopped 35 Goatee's spot 38 Schooner or clipper

39 Soft, like the inside of a jewelry box

Jean-Claude Killy 42 Seldom _; rare

32 Innocent: unworldly

41 Emulate

- 44 Jackson or Carnegie 45 Center
- 47 Leg joints 48 Burial place

58

62

- 49 Always 50 Fiddling Roman
- emperor 52 Queue 53 Seaweed
- 54 Aretha's music 55 Grain storage tower 59 Table support

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red hot In the year

2010

From the Beatles joining iTunes to Mariah Carey's pregnancy to Bret Michaels nearly dying, 2010 was a big year in music. Here's a look at what billboard.com ranks as its Top Five moments in

music this year. » Eminem's

"Recovery"

» Changes to "American Idol"

» Taylor Swift

- sells more than I million albums in a week
- » Lil Wayne stays big behind bars
- » Justin Bieber mania





Conan's Rudolph apology

Leave it to Sarah Palin to get Conan O'Brien (above) in trouble. In an online-only clip posted Thursday, O'Brien apologized for a skit showing Palin shooting Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer, which was similar to one featured on Jimmy Kimmel's show weeks earlier. "The staff member responsible for the piece has been fired and immediately rehired by Jimmy Kimmel, so I think everything worked out," O'Brien joked, according to the New York Daily News.

Gorillaz giveaway

Want to record a full-length album? There's an app for that. Actually, there are 15-that's how many apps Gorillaz frontman Damon Albarn used on his iPad to produce the band's new album, "The Fall," billboard.com reports. Albarn created the 15-track set during the Gorillaz's 32-day tour from Montreal to Vancouver and released it Saturday. Fan club members can download the album free at thefall.gorillaz.com; non-members can stream it in exchange for their e-mail address

Holy 'Fockers'!

Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller have done it again. Their "Little Fockers" flick (\$34 million) opened in the top spot at the weekend box office in North America. The Coen brothers' remake of "True Grit" started strong at No. 2 (\$25.6 million), Reuters reports.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Rebound romance?

Rachel Weisz, who just announced her divorce from "Black Swan" director Darren Aronofsky a month ago, recently was spotted holding hands with Daniel Craig, according to US Weekly. Craig, who plays 007 onscreen, and Weisz have been filming a movie together, the thriller "Dream House."





Weisz Craig

COUPLE METER

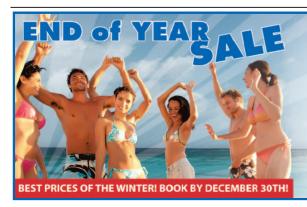
Conversating Cuddling Cavorting

Canoodling

Consummating

60 years

The age difference between Crystal Harris, 24, and Hugh Hefner, 84, who on Saturday announced his proposal to the Playmate on Twitter.



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